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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 42nd, 50th and 51st meetings, on 17 November and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.42, 50 and 51).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.22 AND A/C.2/52/L.57

2. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/52/L.22), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994, 50/112 of 20 December 1995, 51/180 of 16 December 1996 and 51/238 of 17 June 1997,

"Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States have ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

"Noting that, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 51/180, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was convened from 29 September to 10 October 1997 in Rome and that it was attended by one hundred and two parties and by a large number of observers for Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the generous manner in which it hosted the first session of the Conference of the Parties and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the facilities it provided,

"Welcoming the selection by the Conference of the Parties of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism of the Convention, and stressing that, as the lead organization, the Fund should cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank,

"Welcoming also as an important element in the successful functioning of the Global Mechanism, the agreement of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank on collaborative institutional arrangements for the global mechanism,[1]

"Recognizing the contribution to the Convention process of the interim secretariat of the Convention, within the framework of the former Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as the support provided to the interim secretariat by the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, the European Commission and all other bilateral and multilateral contributors, including non-governmental organizations,

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[1] ICCD/COP (1)/CRP.1.

"Recognizing also the support provided during the interim phase of the Convention to the launching of national, subregional and regional action programme processes in response to the resolution on urgent action for Africa, as well as the support provided to the interim activities in other regions carried out by Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as by specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system,

"Taking note of the Secretary-General's offer to provide administrative and support arrangements in the framework of an institutional linkage for the Convention secretariat with the United Nations, including the procedures indicated therein for the provision of financial services in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the United Nations staff Regulations and Rules with respect to the appointment and accountability of the head of the permanent secretariat,

"Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of the Secretary-General's offer, that the Convention secretariat should be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme,

"Taking note further of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and its permanent secretariat adopted at its first session, whereby, inter alia, the Secretary-General is requested to establish trust funds (general, supplementary and special funds) for the purposes of the Convention, to be managed by the head of the Convention secretariat, in accordance with duly delegated authority,

"Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session that the General Assembly be requested, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/180[2] in particular paragraph 15, relating to any possible implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

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[2] A/52/549.

Africa, on its tenth session, held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997,[3] and its resumed tenth session, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1997,[4] and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session;

"2. Approves the institutional linkage between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations, in accordance with the offer made by the Secretary-General and as accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to review the functioning of the institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2002, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

"4. Notes that the Conference of the Parties has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat at Bonn, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the future host Government with respect to the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat;

"5. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, which hosted the interim secretariat, and to the Government of Canada and the Government of Spain, which offered to host the Convention secretariat, and invites them to continue to support the permanent secretariat and to contribute to the implementation of the Convention;

"6. Welcomes the selection, by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism and, in accordance with Conference decision 24, invites the Fund, as the lead organization, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

"7. Also welcomes the decision of the first Conference of the Parties to select the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism and to invite the United Nations Development Programme to designate the head of the Mechanism;

"8. Urges all Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, and multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism and to make voluntary contributions as soon as possible through trust funds and/or similar arrangements established for

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[3] A/52/82.

[4] A/52/82/Add.1.

the functioning and activities of the Global Mechanism in order to ensure that it begins operating by 1 January 1998;

"9. Notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the extrabudgetary funds established under the provisions of Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, in particular the Trust Fund to support the interim secretariat and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and the Special Voluntary Fund to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process and in the first session of the Conference of Parties;

"10. Decides that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the Special Voluntary Fund, as appropriate, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"11. Decides also that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the Trust Fund, as appropriate, to support also the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations of developing countries in the work of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

"12. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute generously to the two extrabudgetary funds mentioned above for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session:

"(a) To authorize the interim secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to act as the secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating at Bonn, which should be not later than 31 December 1998;

"(b) To maintain the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention until the permanent secretariat begins operating and to maintain the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds;

"14. Calls upon all countries that are not parties to the Convention to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention;

"15. Urges all States that are parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

"16. Calls upon all countries, in particular developed countries, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute generously to the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the financial rules in order to facilitate activities under the Convention and the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations of developing countries in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

"17. Decides to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations;

"18. Decides also to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, entailing eight weeks of conference-servicing facilities;

"19. Takes note of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 51/180,[2] with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered in this context;

"20. Takes note also of the financing arrangements contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, and requests the Secretary-General to review those arrangements towards the end of the biennium 1998-1999 and to report upon the results of that review to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

"21. Approves the decision of the Conference of the Parties to convene its second session during the last quarter of 1998;

"22. Welcomes with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Dakar;

"23. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral

financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"24. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

"25. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa'."

3. At the 50th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/52/L.57).

4. The Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.57, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/52/L.54).

5. Also at the 50th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Canada and Benin (see A/C.2/52/SR.50). The representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution.

6. At the 51st meeting, on 9 December, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 145 to 1, and 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:[5]

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana,

[5] Subsequently, the delegation of Slovenia indicated that had it been present it would have voted in favour of operative paragraph 17.

Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Israel

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.57 as a whole (see para. 12).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of New Zealand (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994, 50/112 of 20 December 1995, 51/180 of 16 December 1996 and 51/238 of 17 June 1997,

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States have ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

Noting that, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 51/180, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997 and that it was attended by one hundred and two Parties and by a large number of observers from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the generous manner in which it hosted the first session of the Conference of the Parties and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the facilities it provided,

Recognizing the contribution to the convention process of the interim secretariat of the Convention, within the framework of the former Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as the support provided to the interim secretariat by all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including regional and non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing also the support provided during the interim phase of the Convention to the launching of national, subregional and regional action programme processes in response to the resolution on urgent action for Africa, as well as the support provided to the interim activities in other regions carried out by Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as by specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the offer of the Secretary-General to provide administrative and support arrangements in the framework of an institutional linkage for the Convention secretariat with the United Nations,

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of the offer of the Secretary-General, that the Convention secretariat should be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme,

Taking note further of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and its permanent secretariat adopted at its first session, whereby, inter alia, the Secretary-General, at 1 January 1999, is requested to establish trust funds (general, supplementary and special funds) for the purposes of the Convention, to be managed by the head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with the relevant financial rules and within the duly delegated authority,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session that the General Assembly be requested to decide, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are Parties to the Convention, to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage,

Taking note of the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa on its tenth session, held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997,[6] and its resumed tenth session, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1997,[7] and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/180[8] in particular paragraph 15,

1. Approves the institutional linkage between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations, in accordance with the offer made by the Secretary-General and as accepted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first session;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to review the functioning of the institutional linkage, including the financing arrangements, not later than 31 December 2000, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by the General

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[6] A/52/82.

[7] A/52/82/Add.1.

[8] A/52/549.

Assembly and the Conference of the Parties, and to report thereon to the Assembly;

3. Notes that the Conference of the Parties has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat at Bonn, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the future host Government with respect to the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, which hosted the interim secretariat, and to the Government of Canada and the Government of Spain, which offered to host the Convention secretariat, and invites them to continue to support the permanent secretariat and to contribute to the implementation of the Convention;

5. Welcomes the selection by the Conference of the Parties at its first session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism and, in accordance with Conference decision 24, invites the Fund, as the lead organization, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

6. Takes note of the statement of the President of the Conference of the Parties at the closing of the first session and, in this context, invites the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region to be launched at the second session of the Conference of the Parties in 1998, in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Convention, and with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

7. Urges Governments and all interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make promptly the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure that the Global Mechanism can begin operating on 1 January 1998;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session:

(a) To authorize the interim secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to act as the secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating by 1 January 1999;

(b) To maintain the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention until the permanent secretariat begins operating by 1 January 1999 and to maintain the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds;

9. Notes with appreciation the contributions made to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to

support the interim secretariat, the work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

10. Notes also with appreciation the contributions made to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations of developing countries, to participate fully and effectively in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other organizations to continue to contribute generously to the Special Voluntary Fund also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to close, on 31 December 1998, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 and to transfer any amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and in the Special Voluntary Fund as of 31 December 1998, respectively, to the supplementary fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules and to the special fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules;

12. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute generously to the two extrabudgetary funds mentioned above for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

13. Calls upon all countries that are not parties to the Convention to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention;

14. Stresses the necessity to advance, as soon as possible, the full implementation of the Convention and, in this context, calls upon Governments of affected countries, as a matter of priority, to accelerate the processes of elaboration of national, sub-regional and regional action programmes, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in these processes by providing financial resources and other forms of assistance, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

15. Urges all States that are parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

16. Calls upon all countries, in particular developed countries, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute generously to the trust funds (general, supplementary and special funds) to be established by the Secretary-General on 1 January 1999, in conformity with the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to facilitate activities under the Convention and to support the participation of representatives of developing and, in particular, least developed country parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, as well as the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations of those countries in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

17. Decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties;

18. Takes note of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 51/180,[8] with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered in this context;

19. Welcomes with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

21. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action was taken on sub-item (c) at the 42nd, 49th and 51st meetings, on 17 November, 5 and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.42, 49 and 51).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.21 and A/C.2/52/L.55

2. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/52/L.21), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, and 51/184 of 16 December 1996, and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

"Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

"Welcoming the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997,

"Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for its offer to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

"Calling upon all States to strive for a successful outcome of the Berlin Mandate[2] process,

"Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change,

"Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly as contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/184,

"Noting with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/184 has not been submitted on time, and stressing that this has prevented Member States from addressing the concerned issues in a timely manner,

"1. Notes the ongoing process of the review of the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997, and the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997, as requested in paragraph 10 of resolution 50/115 and paragraph 3 of resolution 51/184;

"2. Decides to maintain the arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in regard to the provision of administrative support to the secretariat of the Convention, as noted in resolution 51/184;

"3. Also decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, entailing eight weeks of conference-servicing facilities envisaged for that biennium;

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[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[2] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

"4. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and following the outcome of the third session of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 49th meeting, on 5 December, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) and China (see A/C.2/52/SR.49).

4. At the 51st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/52/L.55), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.21.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995 and 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3]

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[3] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change,

Taking note of the statement of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly as contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/184,

Noting with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/115 and 51/184 was not submitted on time,

1. Welcomes the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997;

2. Calls upon all States to strive for a successful outcome of the Berlin Mandate[4] process;

3. Notes the ongoing process of the review of the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997, and the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997, as requested in paragraph 10 of its resolution 50/115 and paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/184;

4. Decides to maintain the arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in regard to the provisions of administrative support to the secretariat of the Convention, for the biennium 1998-1999, taking into account the review of the functioning of the institutional linkage called for in its resolution 50/115, and as reiterated in its resolution 51/184;

5. Also decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, entailing eight weeks of conference-servicing facilities envisaged for that biennium;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and following the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

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[4] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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4 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 98 (d)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 42nd and 47th meetings on 17 November and 4 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.42 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.20 AND A/C.2/52/L.37

2. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/52/L.20), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

50/117 A and B of 20 December 1995 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

"Taking into account that the natural phenomenon commonly known as "El Niño" has had an acute impact in several regions of the world, with particular severity and frequency in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean,

"Noting that El Niño has a cyclical character and causes great damage to the world's population, economy and environment, particularly in developing countries, among which the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the landlocked countries are the most vulnerable,

"Considering that said phenomenon has produced devastating effects, resulting in large material, economic and human losses, especially in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean and, in particular, in developing countries, small island States and landlocked countries,

"Acknowledging with concern the possible effects that El Niño may have on global weather patterns, such as abnormal droughts and precipitation around the world, leading to a shortage in world food supplies and famine in several regions that could extend over a number of years,

"Taking into account that the major El Niño events of this century have occurred fairly regularly and are often preceded by a number of distinct warning signs, which, with an appropriate increase and exchange of data and information, could assist in the modelling and prediction of its recurrence and enhance the capabilities of affected countries to mitigate the negative social, economic and environmental impacts that the phenomenon causes,

"Considering also that the national efforts of the countries affected have been insufficient owing to the magnitude of the natural disaster and that international cooperation and solidarity therefore become indispensable,

"1. Invites States to incorporate in sustainable development programmes, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damages caused by natural disasters;

"2. Commends the national, regional and subregional efforts of affected countries, particularly those of developing countries, that have taken measures in order to reduce the impact of El Niño;

"3. Urges the Secretary-General to promote the creation of an international comprehensive cooperation mechanism including early warning as well as the development of long-term strategies that would lead to the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of damages caused by El Niño; such measures should include financial assistance, the transfer of appropriate technology and wide dissemination of information and knowledge,

within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and, as part of the activities of the Decade and as part of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[1] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein;[3]

"4. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, especially the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meterological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the International Council of Scientific Unions, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to contribute further to a comprehensive approach and study of El Niño and to intensify their cooperation with the regions affected by the phenomenon, especially with developing countries, small island States and landlocked countries;

"5. Invites States, intergovernmental organizations and all those participating in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries to support global and regional observation systems and research, including the dissemination of data on El Niño, to prevent, mitigate and redress the negative effects of the phenomenon;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, within the context of paragraph 3 of the present resolution, to promote an intergovernmental meeting of experts and scientists in order to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences related to the monitoring of El Niño as well as to strategies for the reduction of its impact;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite to the meeting, requested in paragraph 6 above, as special guests, representatives of academic and scientific institutions devoted to the study and analysis of El Niño, and to provide the meeting with the reports of regional meetings and symposiums specializing in the phenomenon;

"8. Urges the Secretary-General to include the El Niño phenomenon and its consequences in the ongoing activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to improve the effectiveness and increase

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[1] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[2] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

international coordination of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters;

"9. Recommends that long-term public awareness and information programmes related to natural disasters induced by El Niño and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment be integrated into comprehensive national disaster management programmes that focus on preventive strategies for risk reduction and that these programmes be included as integral elements of United Nations support for social and economic development programmes;

"10. Requests that proposals for effective and coordinated international mechanisms for early warning pertaining to the periodic occurrence of hazards associated with El Niño be considered within the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly in its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including proposals on how the United Nations system might be enhanced so as to enable it to coordinate effective action;

"12. Decides to include a sub-item entitled 'The El Niño phenomenon' in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the agenda item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation'."

3. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/52/L.37), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.20.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.37 (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.37, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.20 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

6. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/52/560) and the report of the Secretary-General on improved effectiveness of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters (A/52/561) (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 50/117 A and B of 20 December 1995 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

Taking into account that the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon, commonly known as "El Niño", has had an acute impact in several regions of the world, with particular severity and frequency in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean,

Noting that El Niño has a recurring character and has produced disastrous effects, resulting in large material, economic, human and environmental losses, with particular impact in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean, especially in developing countries,

Acknowledging with concern the possible effects that El Niño may have on global weather patterns, such as abnormal droughts and precipitation around the world, leading to food shortages and famine in several regions which could extend over a number of years and which may have potential impacts on world food supplies,

Taking into account that the major El Niño events of this century have occurred fairly regularly and are often preceded by a number of distinct warning signs, which, with an appropriate increase in and exchange of data and information, could assist in the modelling and prediction of its recurrence and enhance the capabilities of affected countries to mitigate the negative social, economic and environmental impacts that the phenomenon causes,

Acknowledging the need to enhance international and national efforts for a better scientific understanding of the origins of the El Niño phenomenon,

Considering also that the national efforts of the countries affected have been insufficient owing to the magnitude of the natural disaster and that international cooperation and solidarity therefore become indispensable, in particular in the area of capacity-building,

Reaffirming that disaster reduction forms an integral part of the sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities,

1. Invites States to incorporate in sustainable development programmes, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters;

2. Calls upon States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade

activities, including those related to international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[4] in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[5] into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

3. Commends the national, regional and subregional efforts of affected countries, particularly those of developing countries, that have taken measures in order to reduce the impact of El Niño;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, an internationally concerted and comprehensive strategy towards the integration of the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the damages caused by the El Niño phenomenon, including the development of long-term strategies which take into due consideration the need for technical cooperation, financial assistance, the transfer of appropriate technology and the dissemination of existing scientific knowledge, as part of the Decade's activities, the International Framework of Action for the Decade, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, and taking into account the relevant parts of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[6]

5. Calls upon the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment, with particular reference to El Niño;[7]

6. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-agency Task Force on El Niño for cooperative work on the prevention and mitigation of and preparedness for natural disasters related to the El Niño phenomenon;

7. Calls upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, especially the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the International Council of Scientific Unions and the World Climate Research Programme, within the

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[4] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[5] See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I.

[6] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] See resolutions 51/185, 49/22 B and 50/117 B.

framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to contribute further to a comprehensive approach and study of El Niño and to intensify their cooperation with the regions affected by the phenomenon, especially with developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries;

8. Invites States to support the oceanographic and terrestrial observation networks to observe, describe and predict climate anomalies related to El Niño;

9. Invites States, intergovernmental organizations and all those participating in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to provide technical and financial assistance, including national capacity-building, to developing countries to support global and regional observation systems and research, including the dissemination of data on El Niño, to prevent, mitigate and redress the negative effects of the phenomenon;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, within the context of paragraph 4 of the present resolution and within available resources of the secretariat of the Decade, to promote an intergovernmental meeting of experts, including representatives of academic and scientific institutions devoted to the study and analysis of El Niño, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences related to the monitoring of the phenomenon as well as of strategies for the reduction of its impact and to provide to the meeting the reports of regional meetings and symposia specializing in the phenomenon;

11. Urges the Secretary-General to include the El Niño phenomenon and its consequences in the ongoing activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to improve the effectiveness and increase international coordination of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment;

12. Recommends that long-term public awareness and information programmes related to natural disasters, including those induced by El Niño and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, be integrated into comprehensive national disaster management programmes that focus on preventive strategies for risk reduction and that those programmes be included as integral elements of United Nations support for social and economic development programmes;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, within the discussion on the implementation of the Decade, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", and including proposals on how to integrate the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon into the development of the disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century.

* * *

8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction[8] and the report of the Secretary-General on improved effectiveness of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters.[9]

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[8] A/52/560.

[9] A/52/561.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action was taken on sub-item (e) at the 42nd and 51st meetings, on 17 November and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.42 and 51).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.25 AND A/C.2/52/L.56

2. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/52/L.25), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 51/182 of 16 December 1996 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention,

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

"Also recalling the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

"Further recalling Agenda 21,[2] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

"Also recalling the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,[3]

"Deeply concerned by the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

"Emphasizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity is an important international legal instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

"Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

"Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Slovakia to host the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998,

"Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the Assembly on the results of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. Welcomes the results of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Buenos Aires

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.L.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

from 4 to 15 November 1996, as reflected in the report of the meeting,[4] submitted in accordance with resolution 51/182, and in that context reaffirms the need to take concrete action to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention;

"2. Takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and the programme of work contained therein,[5] and its development of a focused work programme for forest biological diversity;[6]

"3. Also takes note of the results of the third meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal from 1 to 5 September 1997;

"4. Further takes note of the work carried out at the third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal from 13 to 17 October 1997, and reaffirms the importance of those negotiations for the development of an international legal framework on biosafety aimed at safeguarding human health and the environment;

"5. Encourages those States that have not yet ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity to do so as soon as possible;

"6. Recognizes that States Parties to the Convention have agreed to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and urges bilateral and multilateral donors to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in implementing decision III/6 of the Conference of the Parties;

"7. Renews its appreciation for the work being carried out under the Convention to enhance cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions;

"8. Notes that the first national reports of the States Parties to the Convention, as required by article 26 of the Convention, are due to be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention no later than 1 January 1998,[7] calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to meet that requirement as soon as possible, and in that context invites the international community to assist developing countries in fulfilling that commitment;

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[4] A/52/441.

[5] Ibid., annex II, decision III/11.

[6] Ibid., decision III/12.

[7] Ibid., decision III/9, para. 11.

"9. Also notes the clarification of the administrative arrangements regarding the respective roles of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention in respect of personnel and financial matters, as detailed in the administrative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed on 30 June 1997;

"10. Calls upon States Parties to the Convention to urgently settle their arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding the contributions required for the Trust Fund of the Convention,[a] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and its secretariat;

"11. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, and to report to the Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session a sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At the 51st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/52/L.56), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.25.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/182 of 16 December 1996 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention,

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[a] Ibid., decision III/24.

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[9]

Recalling further Agenda 21,[10] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,[11]

Deeply concerned by the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Slovakia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

1. Welcomes the results of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996, as reflected in the report of the meeting,[12] submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/182, and in that context

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[9] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[10] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[11] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

[12] A/52/441, annex.

reaffirms the need to take concrete action to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention;

2. Takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and the programme of work contained therein,[13] and the development of a focused work programme for forest biological diversity;[14]

3. Also takes note of the ongoing work and the international cooperation to date towards fulfilling the objectives of the Convention, the decision of the Conference of the Parties, and, inter alia, the initiative taken on holding workshops, including the workshop on traditional knowledge and biological diversity,[15] and the important work being carried out by the subsidiary bodies of the Convention;

4. Further takes note of the work carried out at the third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at the seat of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal, Canada, from 13 to 17 October 1997, and reaffirms the importance of those negotiations for the development of a protocol on biosafety;

5. Encourages those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

6. Recognizes that States Parties to the Convention have agreed to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and urges all funding institutions, including bilateral and multilateral donors as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in implementing decision III/6 of the Conference of the Parties;

7. Renews its appreciation for the important work being carried out under the Convention towards enhancing cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions;

8. Recognizes the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and the implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes;

9. Notes that the first national reports by States Parties to the Convention, as required under article 26 of the Convention, are due to be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention no later than 1 January 1998[16] in

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[13] Ibid., annex II, decision III/11.

[14] Ibid., decision III/12.

[15] Ibid., decision III/14.

[16] Ibid., decision III/9.

accordance with decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties,[17] calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to meet that requirement as soon as possible, and in that context invites the international community to assist developing countries in fulfilling that commitment;

10. Also notes the clarification of the administrative arrangements regarding the respective roles of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention in respect of personnel and financial matters, as detailed in the Administrative Arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed on 30 June 1997;

11. Calls upon States Parties to the Convention to urgently settle any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding the contributions required for the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity,[18] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

12. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[17] A/51/312, annex, annex II, decision II/17.

[18] A/52/441, annex, annex II, decision III/24.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action taken on sub-item (f) was considered at the 38th, and 47th meetings on 12 November and 4 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.38 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.19 AND A/C.2/52/L.42

2. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/52/L.19), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 50/116 of 20 December 1995 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the Global

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

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Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April-6 May 1994,

"Convinced that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sea level rise, and that the potential effects of global climate change and sea level rise, increasing strength and frequency of tropical storms, the El Niño phenomena and drought have resulted in the inundation of some islands and caused serious loss of resources in their exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture,

"Reaffirming the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (23-28 June 1997) and decision 5/1 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session (7-25 April 1997),

"Also reaffirming its decision at its nineteenth special session to convene a two-day special session, preceding its fifty-fourth session, for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2]

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

"2. Welcomes the action of the Secretary-General to restructure and appropriately strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit in accordance with Assembly resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996;

"3. Appreciates the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and welcomes the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2001,[4] as adopted at its nineteenth special session (23-28 June 1997), which will, inter alia,

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[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] A/52/319.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex, appendix.

review the outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"4. Takes note with the appreciation of the modalities that have been instituted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize resources, including technical capacity for small island developing States, with respect to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 51/183 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996;

"5. Calls for the participation as observers of members of the regional commissions in the two-day special session for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and in its preparatory process;

"6. Welcomes the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing Assembly resolution 49/122, invites the Programme to continue to implement all the provisions of both the Technical Assistance Programme and the information network for Small Island Developing States, and welcomes the regional and subregional efforts by small island developing States, which have enabled the commencement of implementation of both programmes;

"7. Also welcomes the actions taken by the regional commissions and organizations in support of activities related to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that context notes with satisfaction that a post at the P-4 level has been established in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries following the recent restructuring of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

"9. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof, commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and the modalities that it adopted for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

"10. Further calls upon both the bilateral and multilateral donor communities to mobilize adequate financial resources to supplement efforts by small island developing States, at both the national and regional levels, in the implementation of the programmes referred to in operative

paragraph 6 of the present resolution, including by providing support to existing regional and subregional institutions;

"11. Welcomes the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, for a meeting between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and stresses the need for further collaboration to facilitate preparation of project portfolios;

"12. Requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the international community, to enhance efforts in coordination activities within the United Nations system and to strengthen national and regional partnerships for a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century, including requirements for effective disaster reduction capacities and measures, in line with General Assembly resolution 51/183;

"13. Urges the international donor community, including international financial institutions, to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threatening sea level rise that may be experienced as a consequence of the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere;

"14. Invites the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its operational strategies, to further support its climate change enabling activities and short-term mitigation projects in small island developing States, especially the financing of commercial energy development and efficiency improvement in small island developing States;

"15. Takes note of the progress in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, and invites all relevant participants to continue to support the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in further work to refine the index, as necessary;

"16. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-first session,[5] and decides to retain the status of Vanuatu as a least developed country, pending the finalization of the vulnerability index and the next review in the year 2000;

"17. Invites the World Tourism Organization and relevant United Nations agencies and programmes to urgently develop strategies with existing regional and subregional tourism organizations in small island developing States to further facilitate sustainable tourism development as an essential contribution to an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism;

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[5] E/1997/35.

"18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled: 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled: 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 50/116 of 20 December 1995."

3. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/52/L.42), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.47).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.42 (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/116 of 20 December 1995 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 on and related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

Convinced that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the potential effects of global climate change and sea level rise, and that tropical storms, the El Niño phenomenon and drought have resulted in the inundation of some islands and have caused serious loss of resources in their exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture,

Reaffirming the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session held from

23 to 28 June 1997[6] and resolution 5/1 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, held from 7 to 25 April 1997,[7]

Reaffirming also the decision taken at its nineteenth special session[8] to convene a two-day special session, preceding its fifty-fourth session, for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[10] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Welcomes the action of the Secretary-General to restructure the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and his proposal to suitably strengthen the Unit;

3. Appreciates the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and welcomes the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002, as adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[11] pursuant to which the Commission will, inter alia, review the outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action;

4. Decides to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not States members of the United Nations to participate in the two-day special session for the review and appraisal of the Barbados Programme of Action, and in the preparatory meetings therefor in the capacity of observers;

5. Welcomes the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, invites the Programme to

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[6] Resolution S/19-2, annex.

[7] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29), chap. I, resolution 5/1.

[8] Resolution S/19-2, annex, para. 71.

[9] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publications, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] A/52/319.

[11] Resolution S/19-2, annex, appendix.

continue to implement all the provisions of both the Technical Assistance Programme, known as SIDSTAP, and the Small Island Developing States Information Network, known as SIDSNET, and welcomes the regional and subregional efforts by small island developing States that have enabled the commencement of the implementation of both programmes;

6. Also welcomes the actions taken by the regional commissions and organizations in support of activities related to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continues to have the strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that context notes with satisfaction the strengthening of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries as reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, following the recent restructuring of the Conference;

8. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof, commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and the modalities that it adopted for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

9. Takes note with appreciation of modalities that have been instituted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize resources, including technical capacity for small island developing States, with respect to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 51/183 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996;

10. Calls upon both the bilateral and multilateral donor communities to mobilize adequate financial resources to supplement efforts by small island developing States, at both the national and regional levels, in the implementation of the programmes referred to in operative paragraph 5 above, including support to existing regional and subregional institutions;

11. Welcomes the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, as regards a meeting between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and stresses the need for further collaboration among small island developing States and agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to facilitate preparation of project portfolios;

12. Requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the international community, to enhance efforts in respect of coordination activities within the United Nations system and to strengthen national and regional partnerships for a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century, including requirements for effective disaster reduction and prevention capacities and measures for small island developing States in line with General Assembly resolution 51/183;

13. Urges the international donor community, including international financial institutions, to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threatening sea level rise that may be experienced as a consequence of the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere;

14. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the Global Environmental Facility, in accordance with its operational strategy, and invites it, in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[13] and the decisions of its Council, to further support the objectives of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

15. Notes the progress in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, and invites all relevant actors to continue to support the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on further work in refining the index, as necessary;

16. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, and the World Tourism Organization, to urgently develop strategies with existing national, regional and subregional tourism organizations in small island developing States to further facilitate sustainable tourism development as an essential element towards an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 50/116 of 20 December 1995.

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[12] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[13] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action was taken on sub-item (g) at the 43rd and 51st meetings, on 19 November and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.43 and 51).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.29

2. At the 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on environment and development" (A/C.2/52/L.29), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 51/181 of 16 December 1996, in which it decided to convene a special session from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest possible level, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,

"Recalling that the special session was undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1]

"Reaffirming that Agenda 21[2] remains the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at its nineteenth special session,[3] will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Recognizing that the nineteenth special session was the first high-level global meeting devoted to the comprehensive review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held on United Nations premises, and that the experience gained during the preparations will need to be carefully examined and taken into account in the preparations for forthcoming special sessions of the Assembly that will carry out reviews of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of other recent global conferences such as the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"Noting with concern that the assessment and review made by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session concluded that although some progress had been made, the overall trends with respect to the global environment had not improved,

"Convinced that the means of implementation identified in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21, in particular the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, require stronger commitments and concrete action so as to enhance the full implementation of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at its nineteenth special session,

"Recalling that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries, are identified in Agenda 21 as the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment,

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[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

"Noting that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be carried out in the year 2002,

"Reaffirming its resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, the annex to which contains the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

"1. Notes that the nineteenth special session took place in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997 and expresses its appreciation for the high-level of attendance by heads of State and Government and other heads of delegation at that session;

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;[4]

"3. Recognizes that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] includes a statement of commitment to Agenda 21 and to the goals of sustainable development; an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference; a broad range of decisions and recommendations aimed at fostering progress in various sectoral and cross-sectoral areas of Agenda 21 and, in particular in its means of implementation; decisions aimed at strengthening global and regional institutional arrangements for achieving sustainable development; and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002;

"4. Recognizes also that a mutually supportive balance between the international and the national environment is needed in the pursuit of sustainable development and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased;

"5. Welcomes the establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"6. Calls upon all Governments, the relevant United Nations actors, the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to implement the programme of action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;[5]

"7. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider establishing funding modalities to enable developing countries that are not

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[4] A/52/280.

[5] See E/CN.17/1997/12.

members of the Commission to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and urges Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for that purpose;

"8. Welcomes the dialogue to be conducted under the aegis of the Commission of Sustainable Development, beginning at its sixth session, aimed at building consensus on the necessary actions for the implementation of all aspects of the sustainable use of fresh water for social and economic purposes;

"9. Stresses the urgent need to replenish the Global Environment Facility to enable it to fulfil its objectives effectively in accordance with its mandate;

"10. Welcomes the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in preparation for the special session and invites the Commission to continue its supportive role as agreed, in collaboration with international institutions, in carrying out its multi-year work programme;

"11. Recognizes the important contributions that were made during the preparatory process and at the special session itself by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and stresses the need for their continued involvement in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"12. Invites Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to participate in the follow-up meetings envisaged for the next five years, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund to support the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"13. Welcomes the valuable contributions made by the task managers of the various chapters of Agenda 21 and the conferences of the parties to the conventions related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"14. Welcomes also the action taken by the Secretary-General in strengthening the system-wide intersectoral cooperation and coordination for the further implementation of Agenda 21, and for the promotion of coordinated follow-up to the major international conferences in the area of sustainable development, as outlined in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform";[6]

"15. Welcomes further the action taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the functions of the Division for Sustainable Development to support action at all levels to implement Agenda 21 and to ensure greater coherence in the Secretariat's work in the area of sustainable development in general, including, in particular, stronger support for regional and national activities;

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[6] A/51/950.

"16. Stresses that the full implementation of Agenda 21, and that to achieve advance results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in the year 2002, will continue to require the concerted efforts of all Governments, taking into account the priority areas adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session, and calls upon the developed countries to fulfil their commitments with respect to financial resources and technology transfer;

"17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on environment and development', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at that session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 51st meeting, on 9 December, the Chairman informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.29 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision A/C.2/52/L.60

4. At the 51st meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft decision entitled "Implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" (A/C.2/52/L.60).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see para. 10, draft decision I).

6. Before the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and China; after the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of Papua New Guinea (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

C. Draft decision A/C.2/52/L.61

7. At the 51st meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft decision entitled "Progress in the implementation of conventions related to sustainable development" (A/C.2/52/L.61).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see para. 10, draft decision II).

9. Before the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and

China; after the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of Papua New Guinea (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, by which it adopted the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, decides:

(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;[7]

(b) To include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development" a sub-item entitled "Implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21".

DRAFT DECISION II

Progress in the implementation of conventions related to sustainable development

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, by which it adopted the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, decides:

(a) To continue to review the progress made in implementing the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions relating to sustainable development, bearing in mind section IV.A of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[8] and, in this regard,

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[7] A/52/280.

[8] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on ways and means of undertaking this review;

(b) To invite, beginning in the year 2000, the conferences of the parties to the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions relating to sustainable development, to take all appropriate measures to avoid convening their sessions and those of their subsidiary bodies during the sessions of the General Assembly.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

1. At its 51st meeting, on 9 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/52/25) (see para. 2).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

2. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Report of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.[1]

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25).

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